



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Steven R. Ross
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
1333 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1564

FEB 27 2009

RE: MUR 6143
Eric J. Wagner

Dear Mr. Ross:

On December 2, 2008, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found that there is reason to believe your client, Eric J. Wagner, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b(a) and 441f, provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). These findings were based on information ascertained by the Commission in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which more fully explains the Commission's findings, is attached for your information.

You may submit any factual or legal materials that you believe are relevant to the Commission's consideration of this matter. Please submit such materials to the General Counsel's Office within 15 days of your receipt of this letter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. In the absence of additional information, the Commission may find probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and proceed with conciliation.

Please note that you have a legal obligation to preserve all documents, records and materials relating to this matter until such time as you are notified that the Commission has closed its file in this matter. See 18 U.S.C. § 1519.

If you are interested in pursuing pre-probable cause conciliation, you should so request in writing. See 11 C.F.R. § 111.18(d). Upon receipt of the request, the Office of the General Counsel will make recommendations to the Commission either proposing an agreement in settlement of the matter or recommending declining that pre-probable cause conciliation be pursued. The Office of the General Counsel may recommend that pre-probable cause conciliation not be entered into at this time so that it may complete its investigation of the matter. Further, the Commission will not entertain requests for pre-probable cause conciliation after briefs on probable cause have been mailed to the respondent.

Requests for extensions of time will not be routinely granted. Requests must be made in writing at least five days prior to the due date of the response and specific good cause must be demonstrated. In addition, the Office of the General Counsel ordinarily will not give extensions beyond 20 days.

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This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. §§ 437g(a)(4)(B) and 437g(a)(12)(A), unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the investigation to be made public.

For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling possible violations of the Act. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Paoli, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1548.

On behalf of the Commission,


Steven T. Walther
Chairman

Enclosures
Factual and Legal Analysis

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**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

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RESPONDENT: Eric J. Wagner MUR: 6143

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(2).

II. FACTUAL SUMMARY

Galen Capital Group ("Galen"), a privately held merchant banking firm in McLean, Virginia, and William P. Danielczyk, Galen's chairman and CEO, co-hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign in March 2007 ("Presidential Fundraiser"). Eric J. Wagner is the Investment Financial Analyst and Fund Coordinator at Galen. Galen, through Danielczyk, reimbursed employees, officers, and third parties including family members of Galen employees for contributions they made in connection with the fundraiser.

The 2007 Presidential Fundraiser was held on March 27, 2007, at Senator Hillary Clinton's house in Washington, D.C. Galen reimbursed 34 individuals for contributions to the 2007 Presidential Fundraiser totaling \$156,300. The reimbursed individuals included Wagner. Wagner made a \$4,600 contribution on March 30, 2007, and was reimbursed with a corporate check on March 22, 2007, for \$9,323.91.¹ In connection with this fundraiser, Wagner signed a

¹ The reimbursement check also included the reimbursement for Wagner's wife's contribution.

1 donor authorization card stating that his contribution was not being reimbursed. Galen made the
2 reimbursements for the Presidential Fundraiser by corporate checks coded as "marketing
3 expenses."

4 III. LEGAL ANALYSIS

5 Corporations are prohibited from using corporate resources to engage in campaign
6 fundraising activities. See 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). A corporation can only act through its directors,
7 officers, and agents, and may be held liable for the acts of an employee within the scope of the
8 employment and that benefit the corporate employer. See *United States v. Wallach*, 935 F.2d
9 445, 462 (2d Cir. 1991); 1 William Meade Fletcher et al., *Fletcher Cyclopedia of the Law of*
10 *Private Corporations* § 30 (Supp. 2004). See, e.g., *Liquid Air Corp. v. Rogers*, 834 F.2d 1297,
11 1306 (7th Cir. 1987). In addition, section 441b(a) prohibits any officer or director of any
12 corporation from consenting to any expenditure or contribution by the corporation. The Federal
13 Election Campaign Act, as amended, also provides that no person shall make a contribution in
14 the name of another person or knowingly permit their name to be used to effect such a
15 contribution. 2 U.S.C. § 441f.

16 Wagner, a Galen officer and director, was reimbursed for his contribution by the
17 corporation. Moreover, because he knew that his own contribution was being reimbursed with
18 corporate funds, he knew about, and consented to, the use of corporate funds to make
19 contributions. Therefore, there is reason to believe that Eric L. Wagner violated 2 U.S.C.
20 §§ 441b(a) and 441f.